Changes to National School Lunch Program
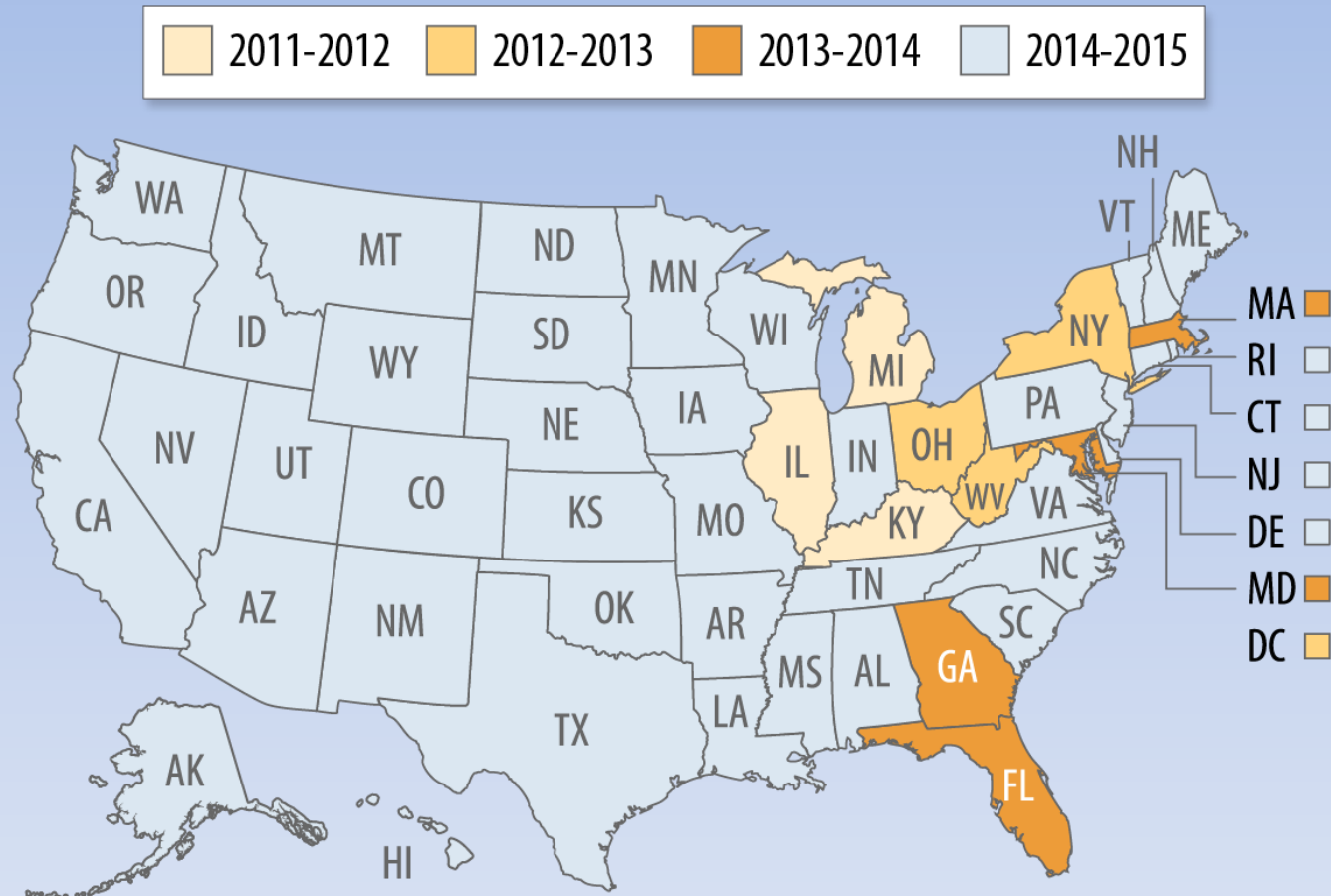
Community Eligibility Program

What Is the Community Eligibility Program?

o **_Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010_** included community eligibility as a new Program to allow high-poverty schools to feed more students and focus on meal quality rather than on paperwork

o It doesn't make sense for high-poverty schools to go through the standard application process to identify the few children who do _not_ qualify for free or reduced-price school meals

o Community eligibility is designed to be extremely easy for a school or district to adopt and will be available nationwide starting with the 2014-2015 school year

Community Eligibility Was Phased In

Source: USDA decisions under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010

How Community Eligibility (CEP) Works

o High-poverty schools provide free breakfasts and lunches to **all students** <u>without collecting paper applications</u>

o Any school district can use this Program if at least one of its schools has 40 percent or more students certified for free meals without application (called "Identified Students")

o The district may implement community eligibility in one school, a group of schools or district-wide.

o By May 1, 2014, states must publish lists of all schools that are eligible for community eligibility and all schools that are near-eligible
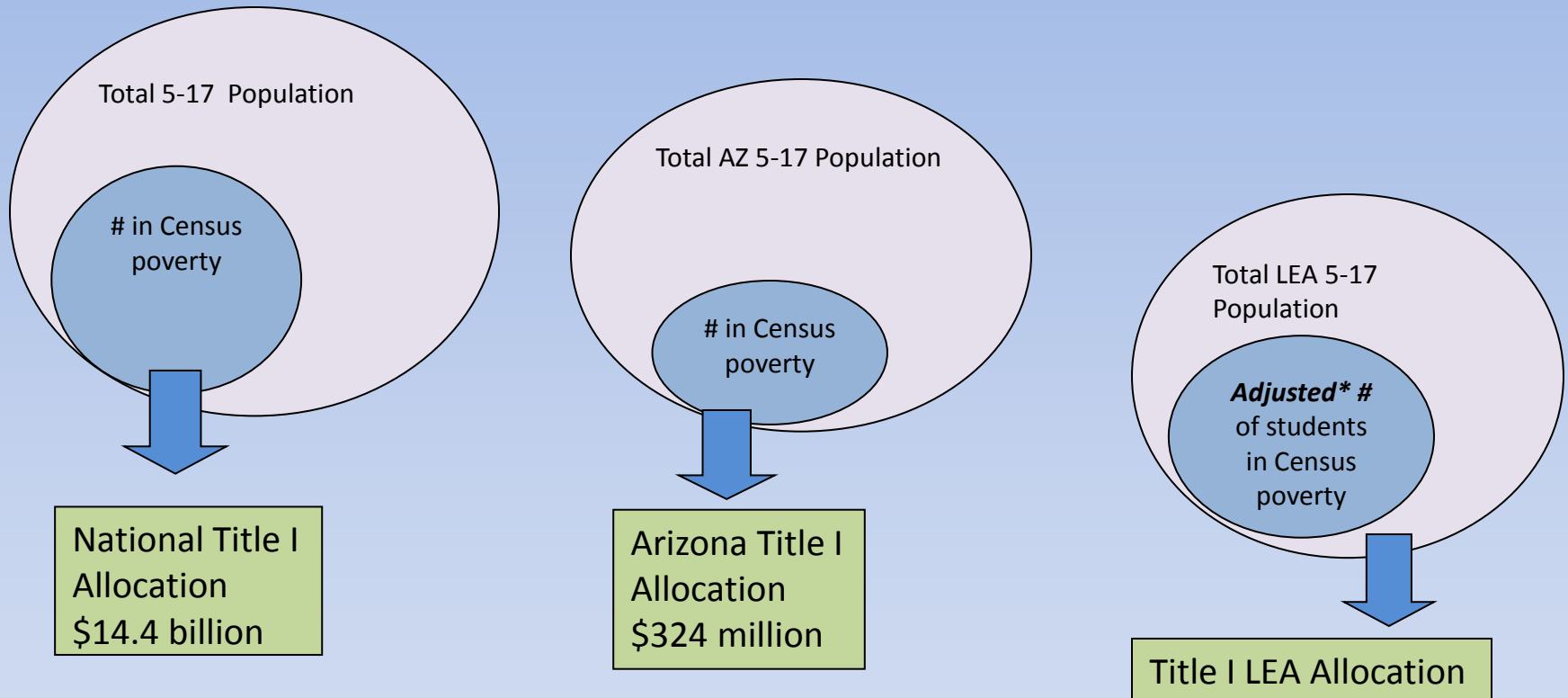
Identified (not Eligible) Students

o "Identified students" = **automatically eligible** for free meals because they:

- o In foster care or Head Start
- o Homeless
- o Migrant, or
- o Living in households that receive SNAP(food stamps). TANF cash assistance, or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

o "Identified students" counts will be approximately equivalent to "free" lunch counts
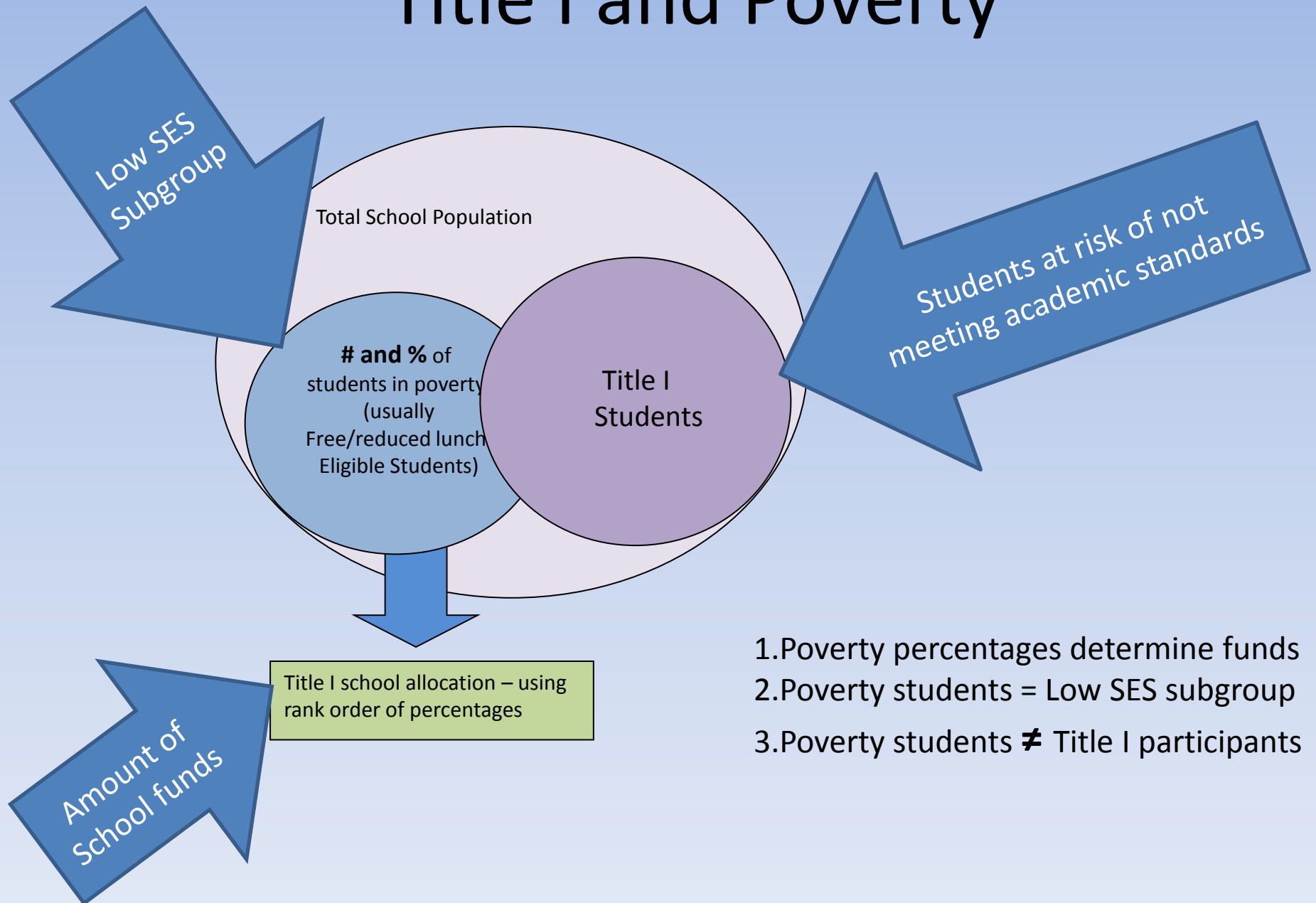
What is the impact of the CEP on Title I?

- *Poverty* is the key determinant for the distribution of Title I funds and Title I accountability systems.

- ED federal funding formulas frequently use poverty as a weight or factor in state level calculations

- ADE uses poverty to distribute funds to LEAs

- LEAs typically use school lunch participation or eligibility data to distribute Title I, Part A funds among schools.

- Currently, *Poverty* is defined as eligibility for free or reduced price lunches in AZ Accountability Workbook.

Title I Funds and Poverty

Total 5-17 Population

in Census poverty

National Title I Allocation $14.4 billion

Total AZ 5-17 Population

in Census poverty

Arizona Title I Allocation $324 million

Total LEA 5-17 Population

Adjusted # of students in Census poverty

Title I LEA Allocation

*Adjusted Poverty - uses free/reduced price lunch eligibility to calculate a proxy for Census poverty

Title I and Poverty

Low SES Subgroup

Total School Population

 # and % of students in poverty (usually Free/reduced lunch Eligible Students)

Title I Students

Students at risk of not meeting academic standards

Title I school allocation – using rank order of percentages

Amount of School funds

1. Poverty percentages determine funds
2. Poverty students = Low SES subgroup
3. Poverty students ≠ Title I participants

Current status

| Type of NSLP	Title I Poverty %	Accountability
No NSLP	Survey – NCLB1 and NCLB2 in SAIS	Low SES subgroup from SAIS
Standard program – direct certification plus apps	Determine NCLB1 from DC data; determine others from applications and enter into SAIS	Low SES subgroup from SAIS
Provision 2/3	Baseline year data from DC and applications - % only	Low SES subgroup = all students (per joint ED/USDA memos of 2002/03)

New status

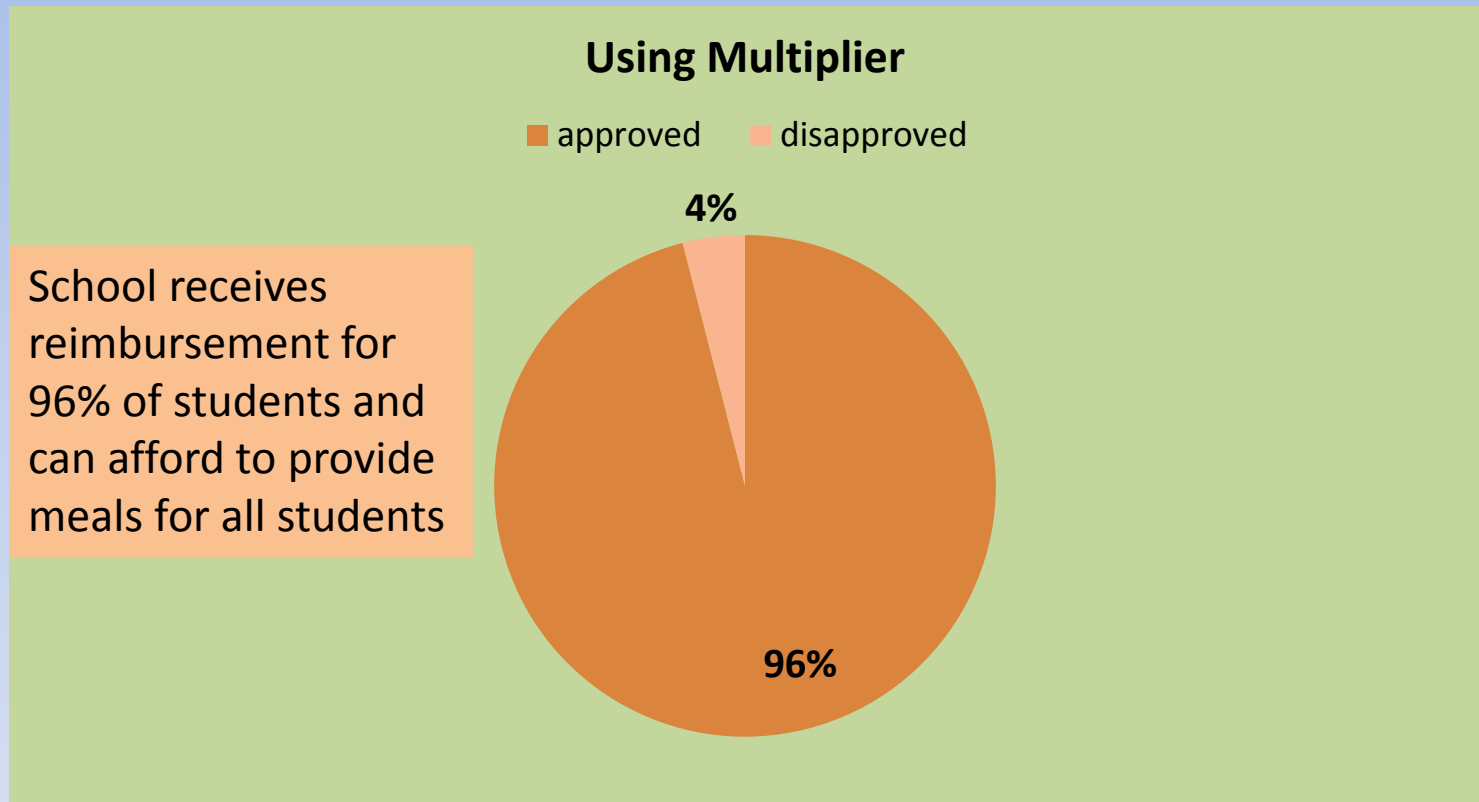| Type of NSLP	Title I Poverty %	Accountability
No NSLP	Survey – NCLB1 and NCLB2 in SAIS No access to DC data	
NSLP – CEP qualified	Determine NCLB1 from DC data; % uses multiplier	
NSLP – not CEP qualified	Determine NCLB1 from DC data; determine others from applications and enter into SAIS	
Provision 2/3	Baseline year data from DC and applications - % only	

Prior to CEP

Direct Certification Percentage

approved   disapproved

40%

60%

Additional applicants
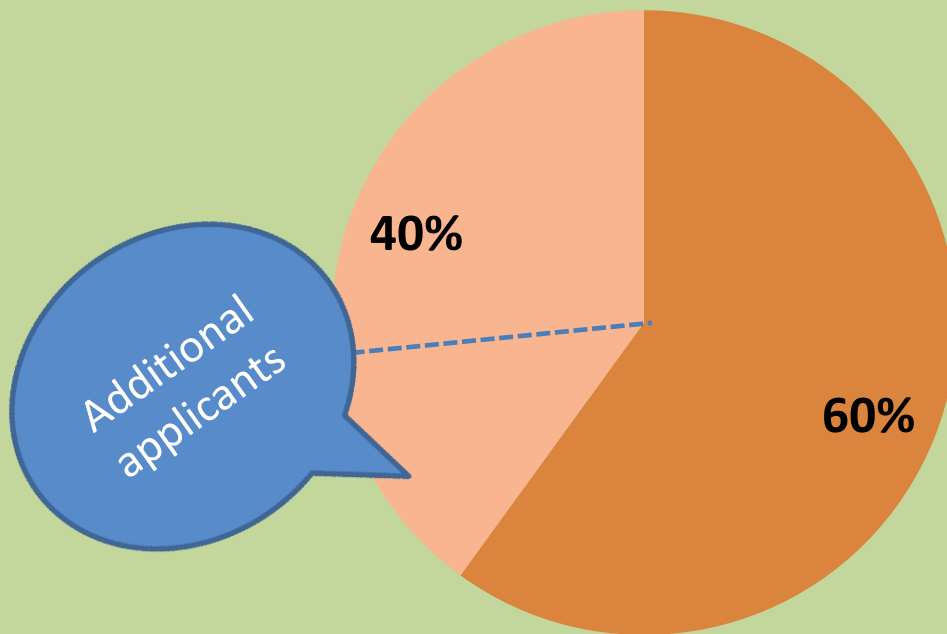
School receives reimbursement for DC plus approved applicants but ≠ to entire school

Must certify applications, must count meals by 3 categories, collect money

With CEP

Using Multiplier

■ approved   ■ disapproved

4%

School receives reimbursement for 96% of students and can afford to provide meals for all students

96%

No paper applications, no money collection, no counting meals by category

Title I and Poverty

Low SES Subgroup

Total School Population

and % of students in poverty (usually Free/reduced lunch Eligible Students)

Title I Students

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Challenges

- Other uses for poverty
  - Other federal programs funding formulas
  - State and local grants and programs
  - Accountability for schools and LEAs
- Detail needed?
  - Size of group – number or percentages
  - Level of data – school, LEA
  - Who is a member

Implementation

- Application for CEP – Spring 2014
  - Check the ADE web site
- Approved sites implement for SY2014-15
- Title I school data – can use previous years' data – 100th day from Spring 2014
- More detailed instructions prior to ESEA ConApp release for FY15 in July